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## In the Claims

1     1. (currently amended)    A method of updating computer software on a

2    computer comprising:

3       downloading software update information through a network to the computer;

4       determining if a software update is available from the software update

5          information;

6       downloading a criticality check program through the network to the computer;

7       executing the criticality check program on the computer;

8       evaluating the criticality of the software update from an output of the criticality

9          check program and the software update information;

10      accessing stored user preference information<u> that includes a user criticality</u>

11         <u>threshold</u>; and

12      determining if the software update should be automatically downloaded and

13        installed <u>by comparing the user criticality threshold of</u> ~~from~~ the user

14        preference information and the evaluated criticality of the software update.

1     2. (original)  The method of claim 1 wherein the software update information

2    includes a criticality rating.

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1    3. (original)   The method of claim 2 wherein the step of executing the criticality

2    check program on the computer includes determining the configuration of the

3    computer and the step of evaluating the criticality of the software update includes

4    adjusting the criticality rating from the software update information dependent

5    upon the configuration of the computer to produce the evaluated criticality of the

6    software update.


1    4. (canceled)


1    5. (original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the software update information

2    includes a location for downloading the criticality check program.


1    6. (original)   The method of claim 5 wherein the step of downloading the

2    criticality check program includes downloading the criticality check program from

3    the criticality check program location.


1    7. (original)   The method of claim 1 wherein the software update information

2    includes a location for downloading the software update.


1    8. (original)   The method of claim 7 further including the steps of:

2        downloading the software update from the software update location; and

3        automatically installing the software update.

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1   9. (original)   The method of claim 8 further including the step of producing a

2   notification that the software update has been installed.


1   10. (original) The method of claim 9 further including the steps of determining if a

2   computer reboot is necessary and including a request in the notification that the

3   computer be rebooted if a computer reboot is necessary.


1   11. (original) The method of claim 9 further including the step of notifying the

2   user of the availability of additional software updates.


1   12. (original) The method of claim 1 further including the step of producing a

2   notification if it is determined from the user preference information and the

3   evaluated criticality of the software update that the software update should not be

4   automatically downloaded and installed.


1   13. (currently amended)   The method of claim 1 further including the step of

2   determining from the software update information whether to skip the steps of

3   downloading and executing the criticality check program and evaluating the

4   criticality of the software update, and wherein the step of determining if the

5   software update should be automatically downloaded and installed comprises

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6   comparing thea user criticality threshold included in the user preference

7   information with a criticality rating included in the software update information.


1   14. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of downloading software

2   update information comprises periodically automatically downloading software

3   update information through the network to the computer.


1   15. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of downloading software

2   update information includes sending a software update query through the network

3   requesting the software update information.


1   16. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the software update query includes

2   software identification information identifying software to be updated and the

3   software update information relates to the software to be updated identified in the

4   software identification information.


1   17. (original) The method of claim 15 wherein the software update query includes

2   software publisher information identifying a publisher of software to be updated

3   and the software update information includes a list of software updates available

4   for software published by the publisher identified in the software identification

5   information.

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1    18. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of determining if a

2    software update is available from the software update information comprises

3    determining from the list of software updates if a software update is available for

4    software on the computer.


1    19. (previously presented) The method of claim 17 wherein the software update

2    query includes software publisher information identifying at least one additional

3    publisher of software to be updated and the software update information includes

4    a list of software updates available for software published by each publisher

5    identified in the software identification information.


1    20. (original) A method of updating computer software on a computer comprising:

2        downloading software update information through a network to the computer,

3            the software update information including a criticality rating for a software

4            update identified in the software update information;

5        accessing stored user preference information, the user preference information

6            including a criticality threshold set by a user of the computer;

7        determining if the software update is a critical software update by comparing

8            the criticality rating to the criticality threshold;

9        automatically downloading the software update if the software update is a

10            critical software update; and

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11          automatically installing the software update if the software update is a critical

12              software update.


1      21. (original) A method of updating computer software on a computer comprising:

2          periodically automatically downloading software update information through a

3              network to the computer, the software update information including:

4                  a location for downloading a software update,

5                  a criticality rating for the software update, and

6                  a location for downloading a criticality check program;

7          automatically downloading the criticality check program through the network

8              to the computer;

9          executing the criticality check program on the computer;

10         evaluating the criticality of the software update from an output of the criticality

11             check program and the criticality rating;

12         accessing stored user preference information containing a user criticality

13             threshold; and

14         determining if the software update should be automatically downloaded and

15             installed by comparing the user criticality threshold and the evaluated

16             criticality of the software update.


1      22. (canceled)

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1      23. (currently amended)      A computer program product for updating computer

2      software on a computer, said computer program product having:

3           computer readable program code means for downloading software update

4                information through a network to the computer;

5           computer readable program code means for determining if a software update is

6                available from the software update information;

7           computer readable program code means for downloading a criticality check

8                program through the network to the computer;

9           computer readable program code means for executing the criticality check

10               program on the computer;

11           computer readable program code means for evaluating the criticality of the

12               software update from an output of the criticality check program and the

13               software update information;

14           computer readable program code means for accessing stored user preference

15               information that includes a user criticality threshold; and

16           computer readable program code means for determining if the software update

17               should be automatically downloaded and installed by comparing the user

18               criticality threshold of from the user preference information and the

19               evaluated criticality of the software update.

1      24. (currently amended)      A program storage device readable by a machine,

2      tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to

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3  perform method steps for updating computer software on a computer, said method

4  steps comprising:

5      downloading software update information through a network to the computer;

6      determining if a software update is available from the software update

7          information;

8      downloading a criticality check program through the network to the computer;

9      executing the criticality check program on the computer;

10     evaluating the criticality of the software update from an output of the criticality

11         check program and the software update information;

12     accessing stored user preference information that includes a user criticality

13         threshold; and

14     determining if the software update should be automatically downloaded and

15         installed by comparing the user criticality threshold of from the user

16         preference information and the evaluated criticality of the software update.


1  25.  (original) A computer program product for updating computer software on a

2  computer, said computer program product having:

3      computer readable program code means for downloading software update

4          information through a network to the computer, the software update

5          information including a criticality rating for a software update identified in

6          the software update information;

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7   computer readable program code means for accessing stored user preference

8       information, the user preference information including a criticality threshold

9       set by a user of the computer;

10  computer readable program code means for determining if the software update

11      is a critical software update by comparing the criticality rating to the

12      criticality threshold;

13  computer readable program code means for automatically downloading the

14      software update if the software update is a critical software update; and

15  computer readable program code means for automatically installing the

16      software update if the software update is a critical software update.


1   26. (original) A program storage device readable by a machine, tangibly

2   embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform

3   method steps for updating computer software on a computer, said method steps

4   comprising:

5       downloading software update information through a network to the computer,

6           the software update information including a criticality rating for a software

7           update identified in the software update information;

8       accessing stored user preference information, the user preference information

9           including a criticality threshold set by a user of the computer;

10      determining if the software update is a critical software update by comparing

11          the criticality rating to the criticality threshold;

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12      automatically downloading the software update if the software update is a

13          critical software update; and

14      automatically installing the software update if the software update is a critical

15          software update.